

MICHIGAN LIQUOR CONTROL CODE OF 1998 (EXCERPT)
Act 58 of 1998

CHAPTER 3

436.1301 Wine tax; levy and collection; rate; sacramental wines; tax on mixed spirit drink; payment; incorporation of farm mutual cooperative wineries; licensing; fee; certification of stockholders or members; payment of tax by wholesaler; rules.

Sec. 301. (1) The commission shall levy and collect on all wines containing 16% or less of alcohol by volume sold in this state a tax at the rate of 13.5 cents per liter if sold in bulk and in a like ratio if sold in smaller quantities.

(2) The commission shall levy and collect on all wines containing more than 16% of alcohol by volume sold in this state a tax at the rate of 20 cents per liter if sold in bulk and in a like ratio if sold in smaller quantities.

(3) All sacramental wines are nontaxable when used by churches. Sacramental wines may be imported. The commission shall not impose restrictions on importations of wine for sacramental purposes but may promulgate rules to prevent any abuses that result from the importations. A wholesaler or an outstate seller of wine may sell sacramental wine directly to a church for sacramental purposes.

(4) The commission shall levy and collect on all mixed spirit drink sold in this state a tax at the rate of 48 cents per liter if sold in bulk or a like ratio if sold in smaller quantities.

(5) Beginning on and after February 1, 2015, if the wine is manufactured in this state the tax shall be paid by the wine maker who manufactured the wine or if the wine is manufactured outside this state the tax shall be paid by the wholesaler assigned to distribute that wine.

(6) Beginning on and after February 1, 2015, if the mixed spirit drink is manufactured in this state the tax shall be paid by the manufacturer of the mixed spirit drink or if the mixed spirit drink is manufactured outside this state the tax shall be paid by the wholesaler assigned to distribute that mixed spirit drink.

(7) On approval by the commission, the department of licensing and regulatory affairs shall incorporate a limited number of farm mutual cooperative wineries as the commission determines to be beneficial to the Michigan grape and fruit industry. These wineries shall be licensed under this act and the payment of 1 license fee annually by the corporation shall authorize wine making on the premises of the corporation and also on the premises of the grape and fruit growing farmers who are members of or stockholders in the corporation. Upon incorporation of a farmers' cooperative corporation as provided for in this section, the members of or the stockholders in the corporation shall be certified to be Michigan grape and fruit growing farmers. Wine making by cooperative corporations on farm premises is allowed, but all sales of the wine shall be made by the corporation and from the corporation premises.

(8) A wine maker or manufacturer of a mixed spirit drink may designate a wholesaler to pay the tax on behalf of the wine maker or manufacturer, respectively. If a wine maker or manufacturer designates a wholesaler to pay the tax on its behalf, that wine maker or manufacturer shall notify the commission of the designation and provide the commission with a copy of its report of wine premises operations that it filed with the alcohol and tobacco tax and trade bureau of the United States department of treasury for each calendar year. A wholesaler that is responsible for the payment of the tax under this section or that is designated to pay the tax under this section on behalf of the wine maker or manufacturer of the mixed spirit drink is only required to pay the tax on the number of liters actually sold by the wholesaler to licensed retailers.

(9) The commission shall establish by rule a method for the collection of the tax levied in this section and reporting requirements for wholesalers, wine makers, outstate sellers of mixed spirit drink, and outstate sellers of wine to verify the remission of taxes to this state. The commission shall not require that the tax be paid in less than monthly intervals. The rules shall be promulgated pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328.

History: 1998, Act 58, Imd. Eff. Apr. 14, 1998;—Am. 2014, Act 49, Imd. Eff. Mar. 25, 2014.

Administrative rules: R 436.1001 et seq.; R 436.1701 et seq.; and R 436.1801 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code.

436.1303 Grape and wine industry council; creation; appointment, qualifications, and terms of members; chairperson; personnel; expenses; liability on contracts; compensation; books and records; duties of council; rules; "council" defined.

Sec. 303. (1) The grape and wine industry council is created in the department of agriculture. The council shall consist of all of the following:

- (a) Three wine makers.
- (b) A wine grape grower.

- (c) The director of consumer and industry services or his or her designee.
 - (d) The director of the department of agriculture or his or her designee.
 - (e) A staff member of Michigan state university appointed by, and serving at the pleasure of, the dean of the college of agriculture and natural resources of Michigan state university.
 - (f) The chairperson of the commission or his or her designee, as an ex officio member.
 - (g) A person who operates a retail food establishment that holds a specially designated merchant license and sells Michigan wines or a person who operates a restaurant that holds a class C license and serves Michigan wines.
 - (h) A beer and wine wholesaler who markets Michigan wine.
 - (i) Not more than 2 additional members appointed as prescribed in subsection (3).
- (2) The members of the council described in subsection (1)(a), (b), (g), and (h) shall be appointed by the governor. The council members appointed under subsection (1)(g) and (h) shall be appointed for 2-year terms beginning on October 1, 1991. Of the council members appointed for terms beginning October 1, 1991, 1 shall be appointed for a 1-year term, and 3 shall be appointed for terms of 2 years each. All appointments for terms beginning on or after October 1, 1992 shall be for 2 years each. A member shall continue to serve until a qualified successor has been appointed. A member shall not serve more than 2 consecutive terms. A vacancy on the board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The director of the department of agriculture shall act as chairperson of the council.
- (3) The governor may appoint not more than 2 additional members to the council who shall assist the council in performing its duties, but who shall not have the power to vote. The persons appointed under this subsection shall not be members of the classified state civil service, shall serve at the pleasure of the governor, and shall receive salaries and benefits determined and paid by the department of agriculture.
- (4) The council may employ personnel and incur such expenses as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the council under this act. All such expenses shall be paid from fees credited to the wine industry council under section 543(2). A member of the council or an employee or agent of the council shall not be personally liable on the contracts of the council.
- (5) A nongovernmental member of the council shall receive \$50.00 per day for each day spent in actual attendance at meetings of the council and traveling expenses while on council business in accordance with standard travel regulations of the department of management and budget.
- (6) The council shall maintain accurate books and records, and all funds received by the council shall be used to implement and enforce this section.
- (7) The council shall do all of the following:
- (a) Provide for research on wine grapes and wines, including, but not limited to, methods of planting, growing, controlling insects and diseases, charting microclimates and locations for growing desirable varieties of wine grapes, marketing, processing, distribution, advertising, sales production, and product development.
 - (b) Provide the wine industry, including growers, wineries, distributors, and retailers, with information relative to proper methods of handling and selling wine grapes and wines.
 - (c) Provide for market surveys and analyses for purposes of expanding existing markets and creating new and larger markets for wine grapes and wines.
 - (d) Provide for the promotion of the sale of Michigan wine grapes and wines for the purpose of maintaining or expanding present markets and creating new and larger domestic and foreign markets.
 - (e) Develop and administer financial aid programs to wine grape growers to encourage the increased planting in this state of desirable grape varieties in microclimates determined to provide the best conditions for producing quality wines.
- (8) The council may promulgate rules pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, for the purposes of implementing and enforcing this section. However, a rule shall not be promulgated that conflicts with a rule promulgated by the commission pursuant to section 215.
- (9) As used in this section, "council" means the grape and wine industry council created in subsection (1).

History: 1998, Act 58, Imd. Eff. Apr. 14, 1998.

Compiler's note: For transfer of powers and duties of the grape and wine industry council to the new grape and wine industry council, and abolishment of grape and wine industry council, see E.R.O. No. 2014-2, compiled at MCL 333.26253.

436.1305 Wine industry; purpose of section; reasons for regulation; definitions; prohibited conduct; servicing impacted sales territory; termination, cancellation, nonrenewal, or discontinuance of agreement; burden; notice; test marketing; sales and distribution; transfer of wholesaler's business; compensation for diminished value of wholesaler's business; arbitration; costs; default; waiver; good faith dispute settlement; agreement binding on successor to supplier; agreements to which section applicable; civil action for

actual damages; liability; action for declaratory judgment; exemplary damages; injunctive relief; procedure for resolving violations.

Sec. 305. (1) The purpose of this section is to provide a structure for the business relations between a wholesaler of wine and a supplier of wine. Regulation in this area is considered necessary for the following reasons:

- (a) To maintain stability and healthy competition in the wine industry in this state.
- (b) To promote and maintain a sound, stable, and viable 3-tier distribution system of wine to the public.
- (c) To recognize the marketing distinctions between beer and wine.
- (d) To promote the public health, safety, and welfare.
- (2) As used in this section, unless the context requires otherwise:

(a) "Agreement" means any agreement between a wholesaler and a supplier, whether oral or written, whereby a wholesaler is granted the right to offer and sell a brand or brands of wine sold by a supplier.

(b) "Ancillary business" means a business owned by a wholesaler, a stockholder of a wholesaler, or a partner of a wholesaler the primary purpose of which is directly related to the transporting, storing, or marketing of the brand or brands of wine of a supplier with whom the wholesaler has an agreement; or a business owned by a wholesaler, a stockholder of a wholesaler, or a partner of a wholesaler which recycles empty returnable beverage containers.

(c) "Designated member" means the spouse, child, grandchild, parent, brother, or sister of a deceased individual who owned an interest in a wholesaler, who is entitled to inherit the deceased individual's ownership interest in the wholesaler under the terms of the deceased individual's will, or who has otherwise been designated in writing by the deceased individual to succeed the deceased individual in the wholesaler's business, or is entitled to inherit such ownership interest under the laws of intestate succession of this state. With respect to an incapacitated individual owning an ownership interest in a wholesaler, the term means the person appointed by a court as the conservator of such individual's property. The term also includes the appointed and qualified personal representative and the testamentary trustee of a deceased individual owning an ownership interest in a wholesaler.

(d) "Good faith" means honesty in fact and the observance of reasonable commercial standards of fair dealing in the trade, as defined and interpreted under section 2103 of the uniform commercial code, 1962 PA 174, MCL 440.2103.

(e) "Master distributor" means a wholesaler who acts in the same or similar capacity as a wine maker or an outstate seller of wine for a brand or brands of wine to other wholesalers on a regular basis in the normal course of business.

(f) "Reasonable qualifications" means the average standard of the criteria used by the respective supplier for wholesalers that entered into or renewed an agreement with the suppliers during a period of 24 months prior to the proposed transfer of the wholesaler's business.

(g) "Retaliatory action" means action which includes, but is not limited to, the refusal to continue an agreement, or a material reduction in the quality of service or quantity of products available to a wholesaler under an agreement, which refusal or reduction is not made in good faith.

(h) "Sales territory" means an area of sales responsibility for the brand or brands of wine sold by a supplier as designated by an agreement.

(i) "Successor" means a supplier who obtains, in any manner from any person, including a person who is not a supplier, the distribution rights of 1 or more brands of wine which a licensed Michigan wholesaler has distributed in this state pursuant to an agreement with another supplier, who previously had the distribution rights for the brand or brands.

(j) "Supplier" means a wine maker or an outstate seller of wine, or a master distributor.

(k) "Transfer of a wholesaler's business" means the voluntary sale, assignment, or other transfer of the business or control of the business of the wholesaler, including the sale or other transfer of stock or assets by merger, consolidation, or dissolution.

(3) A supplier shall not do any of the following:

(a) Coerce, or attempt to coerce, any wholesaler to accept delivery of any wine or other commodity which has not been ordered by the wholesaler. However, a supplier may impose reasonable inventory requirements upon a wholesaler if the requirements are made in good faith and are generally applied to other wholesalers having an agreement with the supplier.

(b) Coerce, or attempt to coerce, any wholesaler to accept delivery of any wine or other commodity ordered by a wholesaler if the order was properly canceled by the wholesaler in accordance with the procedures agreed upon by the supplier and wholesaler.

(c) Coerce, or attempt to coerce, any wholesaler to do any illegal act by threatening to amend, cancel,

terminate, or refuse to renew any agreement existing between the supplier and wholesaler.

(d) Require a wholesaler to assent to any condition, stipulation, or provision limiting the wholesaler's right to sell the brand or brands of wine of any other supplier anywhere in this state unless the acquisition of the brand or brands of another supplier would materially impair the quality of service of the brand or brands of the supplier presently being sold by the wholesaler.

(e) Require a wholesaler to purchase 1 or more brands of wine in order for the wholesaler to purchase another brand or brands of wine for any reason. However, a wholesaler that has agreed to distribute a brand or brands before June 26, 1984 shall continue to distribute the brand or brands in conformance with this section.

(f) Request a wholesaler to submit profit and loss statements, balance sheets, or financial records as a requirement for renewing or retaining an agreement.

(g) Withhold delivery of wine ordered by a wholesaler, or change a wholesaler's quota of a brand or brands if the withholding or change is not made in good faith.

(h) Require a wholesaler by any means to participate in or contribute to any local or national advertising fund controlled directly or indirectly by a supplier.

(i) Fail to provide each wholesaler of the supplier's brand or brands with a written agreement which contains in total the supplier's agreement with each wholesaler, and designates a specific sales territory.

(j) Fix, maintain, or establish the price at which a wholesaler shall sell any wine.

(k) Take any retaliatory action against a wholesaler that files a complaint regarding an alleged violation by the supplier of state or federal law or an administrative rule.

(l) Require or prohibit any change in the manager or successor manager of any wholesaler who has been approved by the supplier as of June 26, 1984. Should, after June 26, 1984, a supplier require that a manager or successor manager be appointed, or should a wholesaler change an approved manager or successor manager, a supplier shall not interfere with or prohibit the appointment unless the person fails to meet the reasonable written standards for Michigan wholesalers of the supplier which standards have been provided to the wholesaler.

(m) Require by a provision of any agreement or other instrument in connection with the agreement that any dispute arising out of or in connection with that agreement be determined through the application of any other state's laws. Any supplier or wholesaler aggrieved by any dispute arising out of or in connection with an agreement governed by this act shall have the right to file an appropriate action consistent with this act in any court in this state having venue.

(4) A wholesaler shall not sell or deliver wine to a retail licensee located outside the sales territory designated by the supplier of a particular brand or brands of wine. However, during periods of temporary service interruptions impacting a particular sales territory, a wholesaler who normally services the impacted sales territory shall file with the commission a written notice designating the specific wholesaler or wholesalers who will service the sales territory during the period of temporary service interruption and the approximate length of time of the service interruption. When the temporary service interruption is over, the wholesaler who normally services the sales territory shall notify in writing the commission and the wholesaler, or wholesalers, which is servicing the sales territory on a temporary basis of this fact and any wholesaler servicing the sales territory on a temporary basis shall cease servicing the sales territory upon receipt of the notice.

A wholesaler who is designated to service the impacted sales territory during the period of temporary service shall not be in violation of this subsection.

A wholesaler who has been designated to service the impacted sales territory during the period of temporary service interruption shall not have any of the rights provided under subsections (6) to (12).

(5) A supplier or wholesaler shall not restrict or inhibit, directly or indirectly, the right of free association among suppliers or wholesalers for any lawful purpose.

(6) Notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement, a supplier shall not amend any agreement unless the supplier is acting in good faith in making the amendment.

(7) Notwithstanding any agreement and except as otherwise provided for in this section, a supplier shall not cause a wholesaler to resign from an agreement; or cancel, terminate, fail to renew, or refuse to continue under an agreement unless the supplier has complied with all of the following:

(a) Has satisfied the applicable notice requirements of subsection (10).

(b) Has acted in good faith.

(c) Has good cause for the cancellation, termination, nonrenewal, discontinuance, or forced resignation.

(8) Notwithstanding any agreement, good cause shall exist for the purposes of a termination, cancellation, nonrenewal, or discontinuance under subsection (7)(c) when all of the following occur:

(a) There is a failure by the wholesaler to comply with a provision of the agreement which is both reasonable and of material significance to the business relationship between the wholesaler and the supplier.

(b) The supplier first acquired knowledge of the failure described in subdivision (a) not more than 2 years before the date notification was given pursuant to subsection (7).

(c) The wholesaler was given written notice by the supplier of failure to comply with the agreement.

(d) The wholesaler was afforded a reasonable opportunity to assert good faith efforts to comply with the agreement within the time limits as provided for in subdivision (e).

(e) The wholesaler has been afforded 25 days in which to submit a plan of corrective action to comply with the agreement and an additional 75 days to cure such noncompliance in accordance with the plan.

(9) A supplier or wholesaler who terminates, cancels, nonrenews, or discontinues an agreement shall have the burden of showing that it has acted in good faith, complied with the applicable notice requirements under this section, and that there was good cause for the termination, cancellation, nonrenewal, or discontinuance.

(10) Notwithstanding any agreement and except as otherwise provided in this section, the supplier shall furnish written notice of the termination, cancellation, nonrenewal, or discontinuance of an agreement to the wholesaler not less than 15 days before the effective date of the termination, cancellation, nonrenewal, or discontinuance. The notice shall be by certified mail and shall contain all of the following:

(a) A statement of intention to terminate, cancel, not renew, or discontinue the agreement.

(b) A statement of the reason for the termination, cancellation, nonrenewal, or discontinuance.

(c) The date on which the termination, cancellation, nonrenewal, or discontinuance takes effect.

(11) Notwithstanding subsections (7) and (10), a supplier may immediately terminate, cancel, fail to renew, or discontinue an agreement upon written notice given in the manner and containing the information required by subsection (10) if any of the following occur:

(a) Insolvency of the wholesaler, the filing of any petition by or against the wholesaler under any bankruptcy or receivership law, or the dissolution or liquidation of the wholesaler which materially affects the wholesaler's ability to remain in business.

(b) Revocation of the wholesaler's license by the commission whereby the wholesaler cannot service the wholesaler's sales territory for more than 60 days.

(c) The wholesaler, or an individual who owns more than 10% of the stock of a corporate wholesaler, has been convicted of a felony. As used in this subdivision, "felony" means a felony under the United States code or the Michigan Compiled Laws. However, an existing approved stockholder or stockholders shall have the right to purchase the stock of the offending stockholder prior to the conviction of the offending stockholder, and if the sale is completed prior to conviction, the provisions of this subdivision shall not apply.

(12) Notwithstanding subsections (7), (10), and (11), upon not less than 15 days' prior written notice given in the manner and containing the information required by subsection (10), a supplier may terminate, cancel, fail to renew, or discontinue an agreement if any of the following events occur:

(a) There was fraudulent conduct on the part of the wholesaler in dealings with the supplier.

(b) The wholesaler failed to confine its sales of a brand or brands to the assigned sales territory. This subdivision does not apply if there is a dispute between 2 or more wholesalers as to the boundaries of the assigned territory, and the boundaries cannot be determined by a reading of the description contained in the agreements between the supplier and the wholesalers.

(c) The sale by the wholesaler of any brand or brands sold by the supplier to the wholesaler and known by the wholesaler to be ineligible for sale prior to the actual sale to the retailer. The supplier shall repurchase the ineligible product from the wholesaler when the ineligibility is caused by the supplier. The supplier must give the wholesaler written notice specifying the ineligible product.

(13) Notwithstanding subsections (7), (10), (11), and (12), a supplier may terminate, cancel, not renew, or discontinue an agreement upon not less than 30 days' prior written notice if the supplier discontinues production or discontinues distribution in this state of all the brands sold by the supplier to the wholesaler. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a supplier upon not less than 30 days' notice to discontinue the distribution of any particular brand or package of wine. This subsection does not prohibit a supplier from conducting test marketing of a new brand of wine or from conducting the test marketing of a brand of wine which is not currently being sold in this state provided that the supplier has notified the commission in writing of its plans to test market. The notice shall describe the market area in which the test shall be conducted; the name or names of the wholesaler or wholesalers who will be selling the wine; the name or names of the brand of wine being tested; and the period of time during which the testing will take place. A market testing period shall not exceed 18 months.

(14) The wholesaler shall devote reasonable efforts and resources to sales and distribution of all the supplier's products which the wholesaler has been granted the right to sell and distribute and shall maintain reasonable sales levels.

(15) A supplier shall not withhold consent to any transfer of a wholesaler's business if the proposed transferee meets the material and reasonable qualifications and standards required by the supplier. A

wholesaler shall give the supplier written notice of intent to transfer the wholesaler's business. A supplier shall not unreasonably delay a response to a request for a proposed transfer of a wholesaler's business. However, a transfer of a wholesaler's business which is not approved by the supplier shall be null and void. A supplier shall not interfere with, or prevent, the transfer of the wholesaler's business if the proposed transferee is a designated member.

(16) A supplier as part of the written agreement required by this section may, subject to the provisions of subsection (3)(l), require a wholesaler to designate a successor manager who shall be subject to prior approval by the supplier. In the event the designated successor manager fails to assume the role of approved manager or for any reason does not continue to manage the wholesaler's business, after assuming that responsibility, then any successor shall be subject to the prior approval of the supplier, subject to the provisions of subsection (3)(l), notwithstanding the transferee's interest as a designated member.

(17) A supplier that has amended, canceled, terminated, or refused to renew any agreement; has caused a wholesaler to resign from an agreement; or has withheld consent to any assignment or transfer of a wholesaler's business, except as provided for in this section, shall pay the wholesaler reasonable compensation for the diminished value of the wholesaler's business or of any ancillary business which has been negatively affected by the act of the supplier, or both. The value of the wholesaler's business or ancillary business shall include, but not be limited to, its goodwill.

(18) Either party may, at any time, determine that mutual agreement on the amount of reasonable compensation cannot be reached. Should such a determination be made, the supplier or the wholesaler shall send written notice to the other party declaring their intention to proceed with arbitration. Arbitration shall proceed only by mutual agreement of both parties.

(19) The matter of determining the amount of compensation under arbitration may, by agreement of the parties, be submitted to a 5-member arbitration panel consisting of 2 representatives selected by the supplier but unassociated with the affected supplier, 2 wholesaler representatives selected by the wholesaler but unassociated with the wholesaler, and an impartial arbitrator.

(20) Not more than 10 days after the notice to enter into arbitration has been sent, each party shall request, in writing, a list of 5 arbitrators from the American arbitration association. Not more than 10 days after the receipt of the list of 5 choices, the wholesaler arbitrators and the supplier arbitrators may strike and disqualify up to 2 names each from the list. Should either party fail to respond within the 10 days or should more than 1 name remain, the American arbitration association shall make the selection of the impartial arbitrator.

(21) Not more than 30 days after the list of arbitrators is received, the wholesaler and supplier shall exchange in writing the names of their respective arbitration panel representatives.

(22) Not more than 30 days after the final selection of the arbitration panel is made, the arbitration panel shall convene to decide the dispute. The panel shall render a decision by majority vote of the participants within 20 days from the conclusion of the arbitration.

(23) The cost of the impartial arbitrator, the stenographer, and the meeting site shall be equally divided between the wholesaler and the supplier. All other costs shall be paid by the party incurring them. The award of the arbitration panel shall be final and binding on the parties.

(24) Should either party fail to abide by the time limitations as prescribed in subsections (20), (21), and (22), or fail or refuse to make the selection of any arbitrators, or fail to participate in the arbitration hearings, the other party shall make the selection of their arbitrators and proceed to arbitration. The party who has failed or refused to comply as prescribed in this subsection shall be considered to be in default. Any party considered to be in default pursuant to this subsection shall have waived any and all rights the party would have had in the arbitration and shall be considered to have consented to the determination of the arbitration panel.

(25) A wholesaler shall not waive any of the rights granted in any provision of this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or prohibit good faith dispute settlements voluntarily entered into by the parties.

(26) A successor to a supplier that continues in business as a wine maker, an outstate seller of wine, or master distributor shall be bound by all terms and conditions of each agreement of the supplier with a wholesaler licensed in this state that were in effect on the date on which the successor received the distribution rights of the previous supplier.

(27) This section shall apply to agreements in existence on June 26, 1984, as well as agreements entered into or renewed after that date.

(28) If a supplier engages in conduct prohibited under this section, a wholesaler with which the supplier has an agreement may maintain a civil action against the supplier to recover actual damages reasonably incurred as the result of the prohibited conduct. If a wholesaler engages in conduct prohibited under this section, a supplier with which the wholesaler has an agreement may maintain a civil action against the

wholesaler to recover actual damages reasonably incurred as the result of the prohibited conduct.

(29) A supplier that violates any provision of this section is liable for all actual damages and all court costs and reasonable attorney fees incurred by a wholesaler as a result of that violation. A wholesaler that violates any provision of this section is liable for all actual damages and all court costs and reasonable attorney fees incurred by the supplier as a result of that violation.

(30) A supplier or wholesaler may bring an action for declaratory judgment for determination of any controversy arising pursuant to this section.

(31) Except as otherwise provided in this section, if a court finds that a supplier has not acted in good faith in effecting the amendment, termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal of any agreement; or has unreasonably withheld its consent to any assignment, transfer, or sale of a wholesaler's business, it may award exemplary damages, as well as actual damages, court costs, and reasonable attorney fees to the wholesaler who has been damaged by the action of the supplier.

(32) Upon proper application to the court, a supplier or wholesaler may obtain injunctive relief against any violation of this section. If the court grants injunctive relief or issues a temporary restraining order, bond shall not be required to be posted.

(33) The procedure for resolving any violation of subsection (3)(a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), or (4) shall be the procedure prescribed by this act and the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328. Any other violation of or dispute regarding this section, unless the dispute is resolved pursuant to subsections (18) to (24), shall only be resolved by a civil action in court as provided in this section and not by the commission.

History: 1998, Act 58, Imd. Eff. Apr. 14, 1998.

436.1307 Sales territory.

Sec. 307. (1) A manufacturer, an outstate seller of wine, and a master distributor shall grant to each of its wholesalers a sales territory within which the wholesaler shall be a distributor of the specified brand or brands of the manufacturer, outstate seller of wine, or master distributor under an agreement as required under this act. The territory shall be the territory agreed upon between the wholesaler and manufacturer, outstate seller of wine, or master distributor. Except as provided for in subsection (9) and beginning June 1, 2010, a manufacturer, outstate seller of wine, or master distributor shall not grant the right to sell a specified brand or brands of wine in a sales territory to more than 1 wine wholesaler. A master distributor shall not itself distribute a specified brand or brands of wine in the same sales territory where that master distributor has granted the right to distribute that specified brand or brands of wine in that sales territory to another wine wholesaler. Notwithstanding section 109(2), as used in this section, "master distributor" means a wholesaler that acts in the same or similar capacity as a wine maker, wine manufacturer, or outstate seller of wine for a brand or brands of wine to other wholesalers on a regular basis in the normal course of business.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a brand extension is not considered a new or different brand. A manufacturer or outstate seller of wine shall assign a brand extension to the wholesaler that was granted the sales territory for the brand from which the brand extension resulted.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply where, before January 1, 1994, a manufacturer or outstate seller of wine had assigned a brand extension to a wholesaler that was not the appointed wholesaler for the brand from which the brand extension was made.

(4) Until July 1, 1995, a manufacturer or outstate seller of wine who acquired or otherwise obtained the right to assign brands of another manufacturer or outstate seller of wine between January 1, 1994 and July 1, 1995 shall assign a brand extension to the wholesaler that was granted the sales territory for the brand from which the brand extension resulted. Beginning July 1, 1995, a manufacturer or outstate seller of wine who acquires or otherwise obtains the right to assign brands of another manufacturer or outstate seller of wine is not required to assign a new brand extension to the wholesaler that is granted the exclusive sales territory to the brand from which the new brand extension results. Any brand extension assigned between January 1, 1994 and July 1, 1995 shall remain assigned to the assigned wholesaler.

(5) A manufacturer of a mixed wine drink, mixed spirit drink manufacturer, outstate seller of a mixed wine drink, or outstate seller of mixed spirit drink shall grant to each of its wholesalers an exclusive sales territory in which the wholesaler shall be a distributor of the specified brand or brands of the manufacturer or outstate seller. The territory shall be the territory agreed upon between the wholesaler and the manufacturer of a mixed wine drink, mixed spirit drink manufacturer, outstate seller of mixed wine drinks, or outstate seller of mixed spirit drink.

(6) Notwithstanding subsection (5), a brand extension is not considered a new or different brand. A manufacturer of a mixed wine drink, mixed spirit drink manufacturer, outstate seller of a mixed wine drink, or outstate seller of mixed spirit drink shall assign a brand extension to the wholesaler that was granted the

exclusive sales territory for the brand from which the brand extension resulted.

(7) Subsection (6) does not apply where, before January 1, 1994, a manufacturer of a mixed wine drink, mixed spirit drink manufacturer, outstate seller of a mixed wine drink, or outstate seller of mixed spirit drink had assigned a brand extension to a wholesaler that was not the appointed wholesaler for the brand from which the brand extension was made.

(8) Until July 1, 1995, a manufacturer of a mixed wine drink, mixed spirit drink manufacturer, outstate seller of mixed wine drink, or outstate seller of mixed spirit drink who acquired or otherwise obtained the right to assign brands of another manufacturer of a mixed wine drink, mixed spirit drink manufacturer, outstate seller of a mixed wine drink, or outstate seller of mixed spirit drink between January 1, 1994 and July 1, 1995 shall assign a brand extension to the wholesaler that was granted the exclusive sales territory for the brand from which the brand extension resulted. Beginning July 1, 1995, a manufacturer of mixed wine drink, mixed spirit drink manufacturer, outstate seller of mixed wine drink, or outstate seller of mixed spirit drink who acquires or otherwise obtains the right to assign brands of another manufacturer of mixed wine drink, mixed spirit drink manufacturer, outstate seller of mixed wine drink, or outstate seller of mixed spirit drink is not required to assign a new brand extension to the wholesaler that is granted the exclusive sales territory to the brand from which the new brand extension results. Any brand extension assigned between January 1, 1994 and July 1, 1995 shall remain assigned to the assigned wholesaler.

(9) Subsection (1) does not prohibit any of the following:

(a) A manufacturer of wine, an outstate seller of wine, or a master distributor from continuing or renewing an agreement under this act with a wholesaler for a specified brand or brands for any county or part of a county where more than 1 wholesaler has an agreement with the manufacturer of wine, outstate seller of wine, or master distributor in effect on June 1, 2010 if the wholesaler had an agreement to distribute that specified brand or brands in that county or that part of a county and was a master distributor or was actively selling that brand or brands of wine to a retailer in that county or that part of a county on June 1, 2010.

(b) A wholesaler from selling or transferring the wholesaler's distribution rights or a manufacturer of wine, outstate seller of wine, or master distributor from approving the sale or transfer of a wholesaler's distribution rights to a specified brand or brands of wine for any county or part of a county to another wholesaler if the selling or transferring wholesaler, or any of its predecessors, had the right to distribute that brand or brands of wine in that county or part of that county and was actively selling that brand or brands to a retailer in that county or that part of a county on June 1, 2010 or was acting as a master distributor for that county or part of that county on June 1, 2010.

History: 1998, Act 58, Imd. Eff. Apr. 14, 1998;—Am. 2010, Act 213, Imd. Eff. Nov. 17, 2010.